

Early Warning Signs — **Arson for Revenge**

- People fighting and making threats (husband-wife, tenant-landlord, employee-employer)
- People moving out of a building at an unusual hour
- Eviction notices issued by landlord to all building tenants
- Repairs to roof or top floor of building when entire building needs repairs
- Suspicious persons "hanging out" in vacant building
- Squatters ordered by landlord to leave a vacant building



Early Warning Signs — **Juvenile Firesetters**



- Juveniles loitering in or around vacant building
- Abandoned buildings easily accessible to juveniles
- Street gangs making threats to burn a building
- Store owners allowing juveniles to use the premises or an adjoining parking lot

In addition to watching for the "early warning signs," there are things you can do to protect your own property and reduce the incidence of arson in your community.

Don't let your property be an easy target for an arsonist. Keep potential fire sites, such as storage locations, stairwells, porches, etc., free of easily ignited materials.

At home secure all doors and windows, especially garage and basement areas, to eliminate easy access of would-be arsonists.



If you operate a business, make sure the building has good burglar and fire alarm systems and adequate lighting. You can even request increased police patrols during nighttime hours.



Cooperate with officials. Report any suspicious activities you may have seen or heard prior to the fire. Did anyone remove items from the building before the fire? Who was around at the time the fire started? Where did it appear to start? Were there any explosions? What color were the smoke and flames? Did you notice any distinct odors like gasoline, kerosene or turpentine?

If arson is a growing problem in your community,

Neighborhood Watch

you may want to form an anti-arson group or a blockwatch program. This way neighbors watch each other's property and report suspicious activities to authorities. Check your area for an existing blockwatch program.

The best way to stop arson is to become informed and involved. Set your sights on arson in your community with "Target Arson." You can remain anonymous and you can receive up to \$1,000 reward.



Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Court Officials and Insurance Claim Personnel and the families of each are not eligible for reward.



ARSON A **CRIME**
WHERE EVERYONE PAYS

\$1000 REWARD

CALL

1-800-27-ARSON

ARSON is a crime against people and property. It is a crime that we all pay for.

Estimates indicate there are over 1/2 million arson or suspected arson fires a year.

Thousands of people are injured in these fires with an estimated 1,300 deaths each year resulting from arson.

If you believe arson is a crime that does not affect you — you're wrong



Billions of dollars are lost annually due to this crime. Approximately \$2 billion in direct property loss is only part of the cost we all pay for. When indirect

costs, such as lost jobs, lost property tax revenue, lost profits, higher insurance premiums and the tax money spent to investigate and prosecute arson cases are added, the total cost to us for this crime is between \$10 and \$15 billion each year.



Many times arson fires burn out of control and burn more than just the arsonist's target. Think of all the irreplaceable items you have in your home or place of business — family pictures, heirlooms, personal property — items that no amount of money can replace. Most importantly, your life and the lives of your loved ones may be lost because of this crime.



You can help stop this crime by reporting any information you may have to local police or fire officials. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can call the **TARGET ARSON Hotline** 24 hours a day, seven days a week at

1-800-27-ARSON

If the information you have leads to the arrest and indictment of an arsonist, you could receive a reward up to \$1,000.



Here are some of the reasons why people commit arson:



- To make money
- To cover up other crimes
- To get revenge
- To get attention
- Mental disorders (Pyromaniacs)
- To vandalize

Any place can be a target for arson; however, some places are more likely to be burned than others. They are:

- vacant buildings
- buildings in poor repair
- buildings that store combustible material
- public buildings
- factories
- hospitals & schools
- forests
- private homes



Frequently conditions exist that increase the incidence of arson, such as:



- Tenant-landlord conflicts
- Poor neighborhood with vacant or deteriorating buildings
- Domestic disputes

There are usually "early warning signs" associated with arson. Observance of any of these may indicate that arson is being considered or a fire was the result of arson.

Early Warning Signs — **Arson for Profit**

- Building with absentee landlord and no resident superintendent
- Store with little merchandise, stock or inventory
- Landlord evicting all tenants in a building
- Poor housekeeping in a business or store
- Store or business closing at unusual and varying hours
- Frequent burglaries of a store or business
- Store or business with obsolete or old stock
- Store or business advertised for sale
- Small vans or panel trucks parked outside vacant buildings
- Repairs to roof or top floor of building when entire building needs repairs

